

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 658

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Nelson Carter Andrews of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Nelson Carter Andrews of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished businessman and real estate developer, Nelson Carter Andrews was a visionary community leader and philanthropist who devoted himself to making Nashville a better place for every citizen to live and work by reaching out to unite the community, promote quality education for every child, and build a vibrant and moral business sector; and

WHEREAS, born in Washington, D.C., on March 7, 1927, Nelson Carter Andrews was the son of Judith Ann Carter Andrews and James David Andrews, Jr. and attended schools in Virginia, South Carolina, and Memphis, where he won the Memphis Spelling Bee; and

WHEREAS, at the outbreak of World War II, Mr. Andrews relocated with his family to Berkley, California, when his father, a colonel in the Army Corps of Engineers, was transferred to the area to direct the construction of the ports of embarkation; and

WHEREAS, young Nelson Andrews would attend Berkley High School for two years, while at the same time working on a hydrographic survey ship where he not only assisted in surveying, but served as the deep-sea diver, retrieving dead bodies from the bay; and

WHEREAS, returning to Tennessee when the U.S. Army sent both his father and brother overseas, Nelson Andrews enrolled at Montgomery Bell Academy where he succeeded as both a scholar, graduating as valedictorian and establishing the school paper, *Bell Ringer*, and as an athlete, playing every sport and being named Most Valuable Player of the football team in the All Star game, the forerunner of the Clinic Bowl; and

WHEREAS, having volunteered to join the U.S. Army upon graduation and planning to go to war, Mr. Andrews was ordered to the U.S. Military Academy; ranked first in his class at West Point in military matters, and second in scholastics, he once again excelled on the gridiron, playing two years on the Army's undefeated national champion football team; and

WHEREAS, during his time at West Point he also played on several other sports teams, rang the Carillon, sang in the choir, and set the record with his marksmanship in riflery while winning the title of Best of the Cadets in physical conditioning; and

WHEREAS, realizing that he did not want to pursue a life in the military, Nelson Andrews resigned from service in 1947 and returned to Nashville where he accepted a football scholarship to attend Vanderbilt University; injured on the first day of practice, he refused the job of water boy and lost his scholarship; and

WHEREAS, paying for his tuition with money accumulated from a combination of savings from previous jobs, playing poker, and money earned as a member of a hillbilly band, the Tennessee Dew Drops, Mr. Andrews was elected president of Beta Theta Pi and met his future wife, Sue Adams, while attending Vanderbilt; and

WHEREAS, marrying his beloved wife, Sue Adams Andrews, soon after graduation, the young couple moved into the house Nelson Andrews had built on Tyne Boulevard and he began his business career in Nashville with the A.J. Smith Company; and

WHEREAS, a highly successful businessman, Mr. Andrews would also serve as president and Chairman of the Board for McClures Department Store and was the founder and Chairman of the Board of Brookside Properties, one of the most successful real estate firms in the Southeast; and

WHEREAS, a visionary leader in the Nashville business community, Nelson Andrews served as president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who acted when he saw a need, Nelson Carter Andrews lived by the creed: "May I deal with honor, may I act with courage, may I achieve humility."; his honorable and courageous actions led to the establishment of Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, Nashville's Better Business Bureau, the Canby Robinson Society, and the Davidson Group; and

WHEREAS, Nelson Andrews was greatly admired for his wisdom and experience, and was often called upon to serve his fellow citizens, including service as chair of the Tennessee Tax Structure Study Commission and work on Nashville's Agenda; and

WHEREAS, a champion for education, Nelson Carter Andrews gave his full measure of devotion to improving the quality of education in Tennessee for every child, from pre-school to graduate school, serving a nine-year tenure as chairman of the State Board of Education upon his appointment in 1984 by Governor Lamar Alexander; and

WHEREAS, he was a strong advocate for early childhood education and recognized that the most important aspect of schooling is what happens in the classroom; his strong leadership and firm belief that a focus on reading must be at the heart of learning, ignited the spark that led to the formation of a number of organizations to benefit public education; and

WHEREAS, the founder of the Nashville Alliance for Public Education, Mr. Andrews won acclaim from that organization and the Tennessee Education Association, receiving the distinguished group's prestigious Friend of Education award in recognition of his efforts; and

WHEREAS, a Trustee Emeritus of Vanderbilt University, Nelson Andrews had been a member of the board of Vanderbilt Medical Center since 1964 and also served in various capacities for Belmont University and David Lipscomb University; and

WHEREAS, highly respected and admired in all his endeavors, Mr. Andrews was a member of numerous boards over the years including First American Bank, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, and Montgomery Bell Academy; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Nelson Andrews won numerous awards during his lifetime, including the Kraft Humanitarian Award and the Nashvillian of the Year award from the Easter Seals of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who enjoyed numerous triumphs in life, Nelson Andrews' true shining legacy is Leadership Nashville, which he led the efforts to establish in 1976, having grown from discussions arising from meetings of the Davidson Group, an informal luncheon club that he had established to bridge divisions between Nashville's communities; and

WHEREAS, seeing the need to broaden the perspectives of Nashville's primary leaders, Nelson Andrews' focus on a better Nashville for all by engaging leaders from the vast spectrum of the city's business, civic, education, and community groups and organizations brought forth

Leadership Nashville as an independent, executive leadership program to give community leaders a three-dimensional view of the city; and

WHEREAS, Leadership Nashville combines the passion for leadership, community, virtue, and service that embodied Nelson Andrews; now replicated across the State and the Nation, Leadership Nashville today serves the same purpose as it did in 1976: build channels of communications between established leaders, connect these leaders with community issues, and equip participants with insights not solutions; and

WHEREAS, a true renaissance man who possessed boundless energy and optimism, Nelson Andrews loved to fly helicopters, keep bees, ride his unicycle, and play all sports, especially racquetball; fiercely competitive, he greatly enjoyed defeating his much younger opponents on the racquetball court in winning both the state and city championships; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Andrews was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his devoted wife of sixty years, Susan Adams Andrews, and their five children: daughter, Susan Toy Andrews and husband Randall Rickard; son, Nelson Carter Andrews, Jr., and wife Nanette Piot Andrews; daughter, Judith Ann Andrews; son, Adam Gillespie Andrews and wife Tami Jones Andrews; and son, Frank Maxwell Andrews and wife Denise Wiley Matlock Andrews; and

WHEREAS, Nelson Carter Andrews was the beloved grandfather of twenty-one grandchildren: Susan Dorsey Andrews Rickard, Nelson Carter Andrews III, Jennifer Peterson Andrews, David Peterson Andrews Rickard, Jayne Robertson Andrews Stein, Katherine Margaret Andrews Rickard, Rosanne Elizabeth Siman, Walter Joseph Andrews, Frank Maxwell Andrews, Jr., Judith Lillian Siman, Saxon Leslie Jones, Adam Gillespie Andrews, Jr., William Nelson Andrews, Marion Faith Siman, Laura Kathleen Andrews, John Coles Andrews, Emmalee Della Matlock, Catherine Lanieve Andrews, Forrest Roy Matlock, Harrison Roy Matlock, and Claudia Oneida Matlock; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his brother, James David Andrews III, Mr. Andrews is also survived by his sisters-in-law, Evalina Harwell Andrews and Faith Adams Young; nephews, James David Andrews IV, Jonathan Douglas Andrews, and Stephen Gillespie Young; niece,

Josephine Harwell Andrews; nine great nephews and nieces, and a host of extended family members and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Andrews leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Nelson Carter Andrews, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Nelson Carter Andrews.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.